



American Association of
State Highway and
Transportation Officials

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Dan Flowers, President
Director
Arkansas State Highway
and Transportation Department

May 10, 1999

John C. Horsley
Executive Director

Ex Parte

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket 92-105: In the Matter of the Petition of United States Department of Transportation for Assignment of an Abbreviated Dialing Code (N11) to Access Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Services Nationwide

At its Annual Meeting last November, the AASHTO Board of Directors adopted Policy Resolution PR-15-98, "Supporting Reservation of an N11 Dialing Code for Transportation and Traveler Information Purposes." A copy of this resolution, which advocates the establishment of a national N11 dialing code for transportation purposes, is attached.

It is perhaps a truism that the growth in demand for highway transportation services, both the movement of persons as well as freight, exceeds the ability of our country to provide it. The factors limiting our ability are not only financial, but also environmental and social. No one now denies that we cannot "pave" our way to a demand/capacity balance.

Accordingly, most transportation agencies, including the AASHTO member departments, see ITS services as a key element in their long-range plans, extending through the first two or three decades of the millennium and beyond. These ITS services and systems will be crucial for coping with congestion, enhancing road safety, and will contribute importantly to ameliorating potentially negative effects on the environment imposed by transportation.

A key to the success of many of these ITS services is the ability of the public to learn about them, or about current conditions affecting them, via telephone access. The use of nationwide, easily remembered three-digit numbers will help greatly in this needed communication. We have learned that a well-known three-digit number produces more calls per capita than even a very easily remembered seven-digit number like 333-3333.

We hope you will favorably consider the request of the entire transportation community on this N11 matter.

Sincerely,

John Horsley
Executive Director

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Approved by the Board of Directors
on November 8, 1998

POLICY RESOLUTION PR-15-98

**Title: Supporting Reservation of an N11 Dialing Code for
Transportation and Traveler Information Purposes**

WHEREAS, the state departments of transportation commonly provide some form of transportation and traveler information via telephone, such as traffic, road condition and construction information via telephone; and

WHEREAS, access to the transportation and traveler information varies by region and telephone number; and

WHEREAS, many different dialing codes are now used, e.g. 1-800-KY-ROADS in Kentucky, 1-800-COMMUTE in California, and two separate purpose dialing codes in Ohio, 1-800-BUCKEYE and 1-888-264-76723; and

WHEREAS, a common dialing code for all states would be very beneficial to the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, there are ten unique dialing codes referred to in the telecommunications industry as "N11 Dialing Codes"; and

WHEREAS, only two N11 Dialing Codes have not been reserved for specific purposes by either the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or the telecommunications providers; and

WHEREAS, the two unreserved N11 Dialing Codes are 211 and 511; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Ohio Department of Transportation have been awarded the 211 Dialing Code by their state regulatory agencies for use in the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Urbanized Area; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has usage data which statistically shows that a N11 Dialing Code generates more calls on a per capita basis than an excellent 7-digit dialing code (333-3333); and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is preparing a petition to the Federal Communications Commission to reserve a N11 Dialing Code for transportation information purposes; and

WHEREAS, widespread support by the state transportation agencies is needed to support the FHWA petition to the FCC; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Valley Conference of State Highway and Transportation Officials (MVCSHTO) and the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) both adopted resolutions this year at their annual meetings supporting the FHWA's petition to the FCC:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) join with the MVCSHTO and SASHTO in endorsing the Federal Highway Administration's petition to the Federal Communications Commission, that an N11 Dialing Code be reserved for transportation and traveler information purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AASHTO endorses the right of the various state transportation agencies to determine the type and format of information to be provided to its travelers; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED, that AASHTO authorize the Federal Highway Administration to include the Association as a co-petitioner to the Federal Communications Commission; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Federal Highway Administration.